

at length by his exterminating thunder, manifest his attention to the things of this world and that they are not left to the guidance of a blind fatality. (Written in Paris to M. de Meusnier, 1786. F. IV., 185.)

SLAVERY.—Sir: I am very sensible of the honor you propose to me of becoming a member of the society for the abolition of the slave trade. You know that nobody wishes more ardently to see an abolition not only of the trade but of the conditions of slavery; and certainly nobody will be more willing to encounter every sacrifice for that object. But the influence and information of the friends to this proposition in France will be far above the needs of my association. I am here as a public servant; and those whom I serve never having yet been able to give their voice against this practice, it is decent for me to avoid too public a demonstration of my wishes to see it abolished. Without serving the cause here, it might render me less able to serve it beyond the water. (To Jean Pierre Bussot, Paris, 1788. F. V., 6.)

SLAVERY.—I have long since given up the expectation of any early provision for the extinguishment of slavery among us. There are many virtuous men who would make any sacrifices to effect it, many equally virtuous who persuade themselves either that the thing is not wrong, or that it cannot be remedied, and very many with whom interest is morality. The older we grow, the larger we are disposed to believe the last party to be. But interest is really going over to the side of morality. The value of the slave is every day lessening; his burden on his master daily increasing. Interest is therefore preparing the disposition to be just; and this will be goaded from time to time by the insurrectionary spirit of the slaves. This is easily quelled in its first efforts; but from being local it will become general, and whenever it does it will rise more formidable after every defeat, until we shall be forced, after dreadful scenes and sufferings to release them in their own way, which, without such sufferings we might now model after our own convenience. (To W. A. Burwell, 1805. F. VIII., 340.)

SLAVERY.—I congratulate you, fellow-citizens, on the approach